

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 03717 191902Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----057779 191903Z /47
O 191452Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 2027

S E C R E T TEL AVIV 3717

NODIS

FOR SAUNDERS FROM VIETS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR PARA TWO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, IS, US
SUBJECT: TERRORIST ATTACK MARCH 11

REF: A) STATE 069840
B) USDAO TEL AVIV MSG 0725 DTG 191150Z MAR 78

1. IDF HAS PROVIDED THE FOLLOWING INFO TO DAO CONCERNING
ORIGIN OF WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION CAPTURED FROM TERRORISTS
WHO CARRIED OUT 11 MARCH RAID INTO ISRAEL AND FROM
PALESTINIANS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN RECENT DAYS. THEY
ALSO ADDED SOME PREVIOUS EQUIPMENT ORIGIN INCIDENTS IN THEIR
REPORT TO THE DAO WHICH IS QUOTED VERBATIM, AS FOLLOWS:
BEGIN TEXT

2. AMERICAN WEAPONS WERE FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF
ARAB TERRORISTS IN THE ASSAULT (11 MARCH 1978) ON THE
COASTAL HIGHWAY BETWEEN HAIFA AND TEL AVIV, AS WELL AS
IN TERRORIST STRONGHOLDS IN SOUTHERN LEBANON DURING THE
RECENT I.D.F. OPERATION IN THE AREA.

A. THE WEAPONS FOUND INCLUDED:

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- 1) M-16 ASSAULT RIFLE NO. 5111424 (WITH SAUDI ROYAL
ARMED FORCES EMBLEM) ALONG WITH AN M-203 40MM GRENADE
LAUNCHER NO. 77332.
- 2) 66MM "LAW" EXPENDABLE ANTI-TANK ROCKET LAUNCHER
(LOTS LS-65 3 P-R 5/70).
- 3) 40MM M-406 LAUNCHER GRENADES (RNO-5-41-9-70)
- 4) M-112 DEMOLITION BRICKS. (LOTS 2-38, 5-71)

5) M-67 GRENADES

B. IN A TERRORIST ASSAULT ATTEMPT IN THE DEAD SEA AREA IN AUGUST 1976 AMERICAN GRENADES AND DEMOLITION BRICKS WERE FOUND.

1) IT WAS FOUND THAT THE DEMOLITION BRICKS WERE PART OF A PRODUCTION SERIES THAT WAS SUPPLIED IN WHOLE TO SAUDI-ARABIA.

2. THE GRENADES WERE PART OF A PRODUCTION SERIES THAT WAS MOSTLY SUPPLIED TO THE SAUDI ARMY. THE REST OF THE GRENADES IN THE SAME SERIES WERE SUPPLIED TO UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES STATIONED IN THE UNITED STATES.

C. IN FEBRUARY 1978 AMERICAN DEMOLITION BRICKS FROM THE SAME SERIES SUPPLIED TO THE SAUDI ARMY WERE FOUND IN THE POSSESSION OF TERRORISTS CAUGHT IN ISRAEL.

D. AN M-67 GRENADE FOUND IN THE RECENT IDF OPERATION IN SOUTHRN LEBANON WAS DEFINITELY IDENTIFIED AS BELONG TO PRODUCTION SERIES SUPPLIED TO SAUDI ARABIA.

E. IN LATE 1976, THE SAUDI DEPUTY DEFENSE MINISTER CLAIMED THAT THE AMERICAN WEAPONS SUPPLIED TO SAUDI ARABIA AND CAPTURED IN ISRAEL WERE STOLEN FROM THE SAUDI ARMED FORCES.

F. WE BELIEVE THAT THE AMERICAN WEAPONS SUPPLIED TO SAUDI ARABIA AND CAPTURED FROM THE ARAB TERRORISTS WERE NOT STOLEN, AS CLAIMED BY THE SAUDI DEFENSE MINISTER BUT HANDED OVER TO THEM. THE SOURCE OF THE
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REST OF THE AMERICAN WEAPONS CAPTURED FROM THE ARAB TERRORISTS IS NOT YET CONFIRMED BUT WE HAVE GOOD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THEY WERE ALSO SUPPLIED BY THE SAUDIS.

G. WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU COULD PROVIDE US WITH THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1) TO WHOM WERE THESE WEAPONS SOLD AND WHEN.

2) NUMBER OF ITEMS SOLD FROM THE .M. SERIES.

END TEXT

3. PLEASE ADVISE AS TO HOW EMBASSY SHOULD RESPOND TO THE ISRAELI REQUEST OF PARA G. ABOVE.
VIETS

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